(b) The scientist has not been shunted.

(c) The matter is being enquired into.

**Torture of Indian Employees in Ford Motor Unit in Britain**

†*166. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a matter related to citizens of Indian origin, who were working as employees in the unit of Ford Motor in Britain, having been beaten by the officers for maintaining apartheid after closure of that unit; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government has noted press reports regarding this issue.

(b) In the reported case a British national of Indian origin lodged complaint with East London Employment Tribunal, where at the hearings, Ford Company is reported to have accepted liability.

The Government of India's intervention was not required.

**Rush Disease in Soyabean**

†*167. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soyabean crop has been affected with the 'rust' disease in some parts of Madhya Pradesh for the past few years;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the prevention and protection in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has received any proposal from the Jawahar Lal Nehru Agricultural University in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The incidence of soyabean rust was reported in 6 districts during Kharif 1997 and in 5 districts during Kharif 1998 as per details given in the Statement (*See* below). There was no incidence of rust disease during 1999.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The farmers have been advised, from time to time, to adopted the following control measures for the prevention and protection of rust disease of soyabean:

i) Summer ploughing/deep cultivation.

ii) Soyabean crop should not be grown during rabi and summer seasons and its monoculture should be avoided by adopting inter-cropping.

iii) Destruction of crop residues in rust affected soyabean fields.

iv) All the self sown plants should be destroyed.

v) Cultivation of rust tolerant varieties viz., PK 1024, PK 1029, JS 80-21 and Indira Soyabean 9.

vi) Use of healthy seed treated with a mixture of thiram and carbendazim before sowing.

vii) Prophylactic as well as curative spraying with propiconazole fungicide at flowering or on appearance of rust.

In addition, the Government of India has extended financial assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Oilseeds Production Programme" to the tune of Rs. 24.37 lakhs during 1997-98, Rs. 90.00 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 104.00 lakhs during 1999-2000 for the control of pests and diseases in oilseed crops including soyabean.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has constituted a monitoring team of scientists from State Agricultural Universities and Extension workers for the regular monitoring of soyabean rust disease.

(c) and (d) One ad-hoc Research Project entitled "Epidemiology and Management of Soyabean Rust" was sanctioned by the ICAR to the Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JLNKVV), Jabalpur with effect from 23.3.1999 for a period of 3 years at a total cost of Rs. 8,72,480/-.

Another Project entitled "Soyabean Rust and its Management" was received by ICAR on 18/11/99 for funding under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). The Project was considered by the Scientific Advisory Panel and the University has been asked to revise the Project. The revised Project is still awaited.

**Statement**

*Details of the Area regarding Rust Disease in Soyabean Crop in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1997 Kharif & 1998 Kharif*

*Year* 1997 *(Kharif)*

| S.No. | Name of Districts | Area sown (HA.) | Area Affected (HA.) | Area Treated (HA.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | Chhindwara | 137,900 | 5,000 | 3,455 |
| 02. | Betul | 168,700 | 11,222 | 693 |
| 03. | Rajnandgaon | 51,500 | 859 | 614 |
| 04. | Ratlam | 181,800 | 740 | 560 |
| 05. | Dewas | 226,600 | 1,084 | 165 |
| 06. | Seoni | 95,500 | 3,857 | 647 |
| | TOTAL: | 862,000 | 22,762 | 6,134 |

*Year* 1998 *(Kharif)*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | Betul | 171200 | 42655 | 1607 |
| 02. | Chhindwara | 128000 | 22897 | 3281 |
| 03. | Durg | 25000 | 625 | 590 |
| 04. | Rajnandgaon | 5040 | 645 | 348 |
| 05. | Seoni | 85000 | 3118 | 329 |
| | TOTAL: | 414240 | 69940 | 6155 |

**Irregularities in purchase of computers in ICAR**

*168. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about Rs. 20 crores out of World Bank loan of Rs. 1000 crores to the ICAR was spent on purchase of computers for research work;

(b) if so, when the orders were placed and when the computers were received; and

(c) the reasons for delay in supply of the computers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a)